



The Church of the Palms



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

How would you describe heaven?

Our Church Life		Pastor Paul
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Just As I Am</i>	Ann Plaziak
Call to Worship		Kay Klinkenberg
*Hymn	<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing!</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	<i>Desmond Tutu, Joan Chittister, Mark Twain</i>	Kay Klinkenberg
Special Music	<i>He Calms Me</i>	Karen Cox
Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>	Kay Klinkenberg
Message	<i>Navigating the Mystery of Heaven</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn	<i>Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Recognition of Life Long Learning		Pastor Paul
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Give Thanks</i>	Ann Plaziak
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 614	<i>I'm Gonna Live</i>	Congregation

*Please stand as you are able.

**Communion is available after Worship. Please come forward as you are able; if you are not, please remain seated as we will come to you. The bread for all Communion Services is gluten-free.

Our services are video recorded thanks to a gift in memory of Ramona Schenk. They are posted on social media and our website.

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Our W.I. S. E. Covenant

The Church of the Palms is a WISE Congregation for Mental Health
Therefore:

- We commit to create a **WELCOMING** environment for people with mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities and to their families and support persons.
- We commit to **INCLUDE** people with mental wellness issues, challenges, or individuals with disabilities in their life, in the work and leadership of this congregation.
- We commit to **SUPPORT** people with mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities and their families.
- We commit to **ENGAGE** with other organizations that work at the intersection of mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities persons. This includes, but is not limited to: Not-for-profits, Natl/ST organizations, faith/spiritual/religious organizations. We also commit to ENGAGE in continued education for our congregation on these topics.

The Church of the Palms commits to train individuals interested in The **Mental Health First Aid**, a course developed and accredited by the **National Council for Behavioral Health**. Individuals successfully completing this training will wear identifying badges when at church or on church sponsored excursions or events.



Our Open and Affirming Statement

The Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, welcomes all people into the full life and ministry of our church, regardless of age, race, or gender; personal, mental or physical ability; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; ethnic, cultural or religious background; marital, social, or economic status; or life history. We believe that God loves all People and offers us gifts by our diversity. We affirm families and relationships built on love, respect, responsibility, and trust.

Church Staff and Leadership

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul A. Whitlock
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Associate Pastor - Rev. Mark Makowski
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Exec Board Chair - Victoria McWilliams
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Director of Music and Worship -
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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8a-1p;
Fridays-Office Closed

Address: 14808 North Boswell Blvd
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**Please pray for our
fellow church families:**

Marlys Davenport, Doris and Allan Gott
Lynda Chubbuck, Donna Stenberg
Nancy Tsuchiya, Bonnie Adrian
Andy Jordan, Shari Kanehl
Herbert Turner, Sue Wilson
Tom Packerman (Nancy Mueller's friend)
Jane (Everett Leff's sister)
Diane Kluge (Tim Kluge's mother)
Jennifer Charyk (Ken Barberi's friend)
Sara Shettlesworth (Georgia Feiste's sister)
Alexia Hale, Don Zoss, Richard Campbell
Marcia Hollingsworth
Bill Olsen and Cyndie Klein
(Brandenbergers' friends)
Bob Thompson (John Durbin's brother-in-law)
Debbie Williams (For Her Family)
Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)
Danette Jenkins
Emily Rowe (Chuck & Carrie's daughter)
Donna Harrison (Pam Caron's niece)
Mark Miskell, Bob and Millie Carlson
Rev. Judy Green Davis
Hadley and Evelyn Starkey
(Anthony Park's friends)
Carol Reynolds, Doris Hoy
Betty Teeson, Sandi Askew,
Victoria McWilliams, Heidi Saupe



Water Bottles

Thank you for donating reusable water bottles for the West Valley Community Center. We have enough for now! Your generosity is always appreciated when we help our neighbors in need.

Pray for churches working with migrants and asylum seekers. Pray for our homeless. Pray for our pastors and their families. Pray for the leaders and staff of the Southwest Conference and the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. Pray for the Tent of Nations.



This week, let's pray for the members & ministries of:

**Faith Presbyterian Church
16000 N Del Webb Blvd**

Solidarity for Our Indigenous Siblings

The Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, acknowledges the communities of Indigenous People who first lived in the land of this valley we call home. The particular land on which this building stands was honored and managed with stewardship by Hohokam, the O-odham Jewed, and the Pima-Maricopa as well as the diverse vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

Social Justice Prayer

To the God of Caring,

Help us pray for those around the world who are victims of exploitation. We lift up those who have been trafficked, traded, traumatized or tossed aside. Help us find ways to protect, care for, and assist them that they might find the strength to move forward in their lives and live in the light and joy of hope and success. Let us be defenders and advocates. Help us be the change agents. Hear our prayers.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, July 26

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

11:00a Information Session BR

Monday, July 27

Tuesday, July 28

9:00a Shower Trailer @ Bicentennial Park OS

No InSpirit Class this week

5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, July 29

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, July 30

Friday, July 31—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, August 1

Sunday, August 2

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

SA=Sanctuary; B2L=Bridges to Learning; HY=Hybrid; KH=King Hall;

BR=Boardroom; OS=Offsite; A=Narthex; CHP=Chapel;

PP=Pastor Paul's Office; MR=Music Room; LB Labyrinth

BRC=Behle Resource Center; MG Memorial Garden

Come join the Sanctuary Choir!

Why you ask? Because we are fun!

In all seriousness, though, music is a very important ministry here at The Palms. Notice that I said ministry! And as other ministries here at The Palms, we cannot run the music ministry without help from all of you. We have rehearsals on Thursdays from 1-2:30 pm in the music room and again on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. Don't read music or have no previous choir experience? No problem! We will all work together and support each other so that we are all comfortable. That is what it is all about: community and worship. Come join us! Rehearsals start Thursday, September 3.

Prayer for Disability Pride Month
Holy One,

You who knit each of us together with care and intention, we give thanks for the wondrous diversity

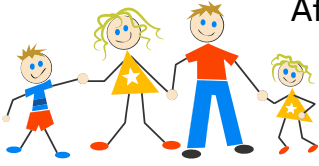
of bodies, minds, and spirits that reflect Your image in countless ways. May Disability Pride Month awaken us to the truth that everybody is holy, every mind is worthy, every life is beloved. Guide us, O God, to walk alongside one another with humility, courage, and joy, until all Your children can move freely, live fully, and flourish without fear. Amen.

Our Favorite Hymn Sing — Share Your Favorites!



As you pass through the narthex, look for the *Our Favorite Hymn Sing* barrel. Write down the titles of your favorite hymns and drop them in — we'll be singing from your selections before worship in August. Don't forget to come a few minutes early in the month of August to enjoy the singing.

Neighbors in Need



After a recent visit with our Neighbors in Need, I'd like to request donations for items that are currently most pressing:

Deep Within, a men's rehab/shelter, would appreciate laundry supplies as well as their ongoing need of new underwear (34-36 mostly), gently used shoes and clothing, especially black pants and shoes, and toiletry items.

New Life Shelter (for victims of domestic abuse) needs laundry pods and healthy individual snacks. They have an ongoing wish list on Amazon for other items. As you may imagine, when women or families leave an abusive situation, they take only what they can wear or hold, so they need everything to start a new life.

We have provided kid-friendly cereal to West Valley Community Center (formerly Dysart) for a long time, along with school supplies, games, etc. Please continue bringing the cereal and thank you for the reusable water cups. Now the families in that area are threatened by ICE efforts and are fearful of going to food banks and often, workplaces. We are delivering grocery items that parents can gather when they pick up their children. There is a shopping cart in the narthex for those donations, which we deliver weekly. Consider what is needed to feed a family with children.

If you can help with any of these requests or have questions or suggestions on how we can assist these neighbors, please contact me. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Jana Fogle (503) 784-8140 jfogle123@gmail.com

New Member Information Session



Are you looking for a church home? Has something you've heard in worship resonated with your spirit? Would you like to be part of the work and ministry of Church of the Palms?

Following worship today, you are invited to a New Member Information Session in the Board Room. Come enjoy a cookie, meet with church leadership, ask questions, and learn more about what it means to join our congregation. We would love to share this time with you.

One bouquet today is from **Marcia Hollingsworth** in memory of her husband, **Lyle Hollingsworth**. Today would have been his 75th birthday.



The other bouquet is from **Jane Zukowski**. She wants to celebrate **Jim Alexander's** birthday. Also, she is celebrating the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Libbie**, who was born this week, weighing 7lbs 2 oz. Libbie and Mom are both doing well. We congratulate great-grandma Jane and Grandpa Jim.

A place for Notes...

